# News from the County Executive Tom Hickner

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# Bay County Voters Renew Senior and 9-1-1 Millages!

On August 3rd, the voters of Bay County renewed the Senior Citizens Millage and the 9-1-1 Central Dispatch Millage for the next six years. These millages allow Bay County to provide essential programs for our citizens.



Rebecca Reimann, Division on Aging Director said that in conjunction with some federal and state grant dollars, "the Senior Millage provides the matching funds and other resources to operate programs such as congregate meal programs, home delivered meals, homemaking and personal care services, case coordination and support, caregiver education, and exercise/Osteoporosis Strength Training classes. The Senior Millage is the primary funding source for the senior newsletter, Wonderful Times, and the personal care program."

9-1-1 Central Dispatch Director Leonard Norman said, "The entire staff at 9-1-1 is grateful for the community support on the 9-1-1 millage renewal. These dollars are essential to provide services that may save lives."

In addition, the Bay Metro Transportation Authority Millage was renewed for the next five years.

# 800 MHZ Tower to be Installed on County Building

Through the Public Safety Interoperable Communications (PSIC) grant, Bay County Central Dispatch was awarded the 1.2 million dollar competitive grant for Region 3. The actual grant funded amount is \$960,000 to install a forty-five foot 800



Megahertz (MHz) tower on the roof of the Bay County Building. The local 20% match or \$240,000 budgeted amount will be funded by the Bay County Central Dispatch 9-1-1 millage fund. The Motorola project, when completed will be first of its kind in Bay County, will improve interoperability and grant access to the Michigan's Public Safety Communications System. The project includes approximately \$500,000 in state credits that will be used to offset annual subscriber or user fees, usually \$100 for each radio.

Through PSIC base grants and various other Homeland

Committee Meeting

### Sept 14th

Board of Commissioner's Meeting

### Sept 21st

Human Services
Committee
Meeting
&
Personnel Judicial
Committee
Meeting

\* All meetings are at 4:00pm on the 4th floor of the county building.

### Mid Michigan Second Wave Online Magazine

Are you Interested in positive news from your community?

If so, check out Mid Michigan's Second Wave Magazine.

Sign up for the weekly online magazine!

## Bay County Banks 2.3 Million in FY 2009

The 2009
Comprehensive
Annual Financial
Report (CAFR) for
Bay County was
recently
completed by
Rehmann Robson
of Saginaw.
Through various
deductions and

Security grants, Bay County has obtained an additional \$750,000 to purchase 800 MHz mobile and portable radios for Police, Fire and EMS first responders. The tower will make the 800 MHz radio communications between first responders useable and dependable.

# Bay County Union Negotiations Status Update

Bay County has 13 different bargaining units and most of the major units have reached at least a tentative agreement and some have fully approved, executed agreements. All full time units have, at their core, three elements: (1) no raises for the duration of the agreement; (2) some significant enhancements to wellness provisions of the health care program and (3) six additional personal days to be used before the end of 2011.

As you may know from watching the news, many counties are in a worse financial state than ours. You don't have to look far to see counties with massive deficits, major reductions in the workforce, furlough days, and pay and benefit cuts. Over the past 16 years, we have worked hard along to invest wisely, spend prudently, and not live beyond our means. Slowly over those years, the County has been able to build up a rainy day fund. We have to be sure that we use that wisely, or it could be depleted like some other counties.

And although we would all like a raise, the bargaining committee and County employees have all been willing to do the right thing for the times and tighten belts again. The next two years show little relief: property taxes have dropped dramatically; health care costs will increase even more than normal next year; and state revenue sharing is still up in the air.

As some agreements expire this year, we will again begin bargaining. For links to our union contracts, please see the <u>Personnel and Employee Relations</u> webpage.

# Free Nicotine Gum, Patches and Lozenges for Michigan Residents While Supplies Last

You can Quit.

We can help!

Michigan is Smoke-free. Are you?

People who want to quit smoking or chewing tobacco can now take advantage of free nicotine replacement products by calling the Michigan Tobacco Quitline.

The Quitline phone number is 1-800-QUIT-NOW (784.8669) and registration is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The program will provide a two-week supply of nicotine patches, gum or lozenges to tobacco users who are age 18 and over and meet basic health requirements.

transfers, Bay
County was able
to add 2.3 million
dollars to the
General Fund's
fund balance. Bay
County, as of
December 31,
2009, has
approximately 9.6
million dollars in
the fund balance,
although 5.6
million is
reserved.

As taxable values are expected to decline and health care costs increase, Bay County will continue to make the necessary spending cuts to ensure a balanced budget while showing fiscal responsibility.

The FY 2009
Comprehensive
Annual Financial
Report is available
for viewing.

The free program is available to all callers regardless of income or insurance status.

MDCH also will continue to provide the same products to the uninsured on a regular basis. The nicotine patches, gum and lozenges are available now through September 30 or while supplies last and are provided on a first come, first served basis.

To be eligible, callers must enroll in cessation services with the Michigan Tobacco Quitline at 1-800-QUIT NOW. When Michigan residents enroll with the Quitline, they will receive a personal coach who will assist them in setting a quit date and making an individualized quit plan. The personal coach will also provide on-going support with up to 5 telephone coaching sessions around the caller's quit date. The Quitline offers both English and Spanish-speaking counselors, as well as interpretive services for a wide variety of languages. For more information, call 1-800-QUIT NOW or go to <a href="https://www.michigan.gov/tobacco">www.michigan.gov/tobacco</a>.

#### Sincerely,

Tom Hickner Bay County

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